

IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend Applicant's specification as filed at page 13, lines 9-17 as follows:

5 --As used herein, the term "head-end" refers generally to a networked system controlled by an operator (e.g., an MSO or ~~multimedia-specific~~ multiple systems operator) that distributes programming to MSO clientele using client devices. Such programming may include literally any information source/receiver including, *inter alia*, free-to-air TV channels, pay TV channels, interactive TV, and the Internet. DSTBs may literally take on any configuration, and can be retail devices meaning that consumers may or may not obtain their DSTBs from the MSO exclusively. Accordingly, it is anticipated that MSO networks may have client devices from multiple vendors, and these client devices will have widely varying hardware capabilities. Multiple regional head-ends may be in the same or different cities.--

- 15 2. Please amend Applicant's specification as filed at page 16, lines 5-11 as follows:

20 --Exemplary embodiments of the apparatus and methods of the present invention are now described in detail. While these exemplary embodiments are described in the context of the aforementioned hybrid fiber coax (HFC) cable system architecture having an ~~multimedia-specific~~ multiple systems operator (MSO), digital networking capability, and plurality of client devices/CPE, the general principles and advantages of the invention may be extended to other types of networks and architectures, whether broadband, narrowband, wired or wireless, or otherwise, the following therefore being merely exemplary in nature. --

- 25 3. Please amend Applicant's specification as filed at page 27, lines 14-22 as follows:

30 --The hardware registry of the present invention can also advantageously be used without interfering with other functions resident in the CPE, such as for example the event logging systems described in co-owned and ~~co-pending~~ U.S. patent application Serial No. [[10/_____ {TBD}]] 10/722,206 filed contemporaneously herewith and entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR EVENT LOGGING IN AN INFORMATION NETWORK", issued as U.S. Patent
35 No. 7,266,726 on September 4, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. For example, events or errors generated through access or manipulation of the hardware registry described herein (such as a hardware failure or contention deadlock) can be stored and accessed as desired by a network agent in order to troubleshoot such errors, and potentially obviate service calls relating thereto.—